

# A PROSPECTUS FOR ULTRA-LOCALISM

inalc

# OUR OFFER

- Provide democratic local leadership that is accountable, open and transparent and builds community cohesion and resilience.
- Ensure we are well run, becoming more efficient and effective, driving up standards of practice and behaviour and learning from others.
- Plan for the future of neighbourhoods by protecting and enhancing local assets and services, place-shaping to meet housing and other development needs.
- Work in partnership with principal authorities, businesses, local groups, and others to improve quality of life and well-being and enhance the area's cultural, economic and social prosperity.
- Fiscally responsible by engaging and communicating with residents and businesses about investing the precept in local priorities, services and projects.

# EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

- Empower communities with more effective powers to tackle local issues, have a greater say over decisions that affect them, and create more parishes.
- Support the creation of local councils by reforming the community governance review process with a community right of appeal and referendums, investment in a national support programme, and introducing mandatory governance reviews as part of devolutions deals.
- Give communities more control of decisions by community proofing powers repatriated from the EU, devolved beyond national government and principal authorities.
- More say over planning, licensing, highways and housing issues through new consultation and appeal powers and better protection for neighbourhood plans.
- Review the Localism Act to remove barriers in the general power of competence and strengthen the community right to bid.

# BUILD CAPACITY AND SUPPORT COUNCILLORS

- Build the capacity of local councils through training and development, an effective regime for serving councillors and encourage more and diverse people to become councillors.
- Enhance local decision making by encouraging more people to become councillors, making it easier to stand and serve, including changes to allowances systems, gathering elections data and promoting contested elections.
- Reform the standards regime to allow local councils to impose sanctions for breaches of code of conduct and the allowances system to support the changing needs of all councillors better.
- Promote and support good governance by working with the sector to deliver the National Improvement Strategy for local councils, including investment and other assistance.

# MORE DEVOLUTION AND ENGAGEMENT

- More devolution to local councils strengthens relationships and engagement between councils at all levels and improves links at the sub-regional level.
- Encourage joint working between principal councils and local councils, including supporting onward devolution of services, introducing a new right to engage to help local councils work more equitably and effectively with principal authorities and other public services.
- Improve links between local councils and directly elected mayors of combined authorities, police and crime commissioners and clinical commissioning groups, including sharing good practice.

# FLEXIBLE AND DIVERSE FUNDING

- A flexible and diverse funding framework that does not extend council tax referendums reforms the non-domestic rates and increases income from other sources.
- Council tax referendum principles should not be extended to local councils and the power of the secretary of state in the Localism Act 2011 repealed.
- Localisation of business rates expanded to provide a share for local councils, and business rate pilots extended to include some local councils.
- Provide a mandatory exemption for public conveniences and other community assets such as cemeteries from national non-domestic rates.
- Enhance developer contributions for community infrastructure and projects through an increase in Community Infrastructure Levy and greater freedom to use Section 106 funding.
- Increase the diversity of investment in community-level services, facilities, and projects through more significant community shares, crowdfunding, loans, charging, trading, and grant funding.

# AT A GLANCE

- 10,000 local (parish and town) councils
- 100,000 councillors
- 12,000 council staff
- £2 billion of community investment
- £600 million raised in precept
- 16 million electors
- 35 million people represented by local councils
- 85% of local councils in NALC membership
- Around 500 new local councils created in the last 10 years
- First tier of local government – closest to the community